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ISRAEL: Defense Minister Moshe Dayan apparently is softening his earlier opposition to renewing the Jarring talks.

Without mentioning Egyptian missiles in the standstill zone, Dayan in a speech on 7 November said "I am very much in favor of our participation in the Jarring talks in order to achieve peace, despite the fact that I am well aware that this means a dive into some very cold water indeed." The matter may have been discussed at a cabinet meeting yesterday.

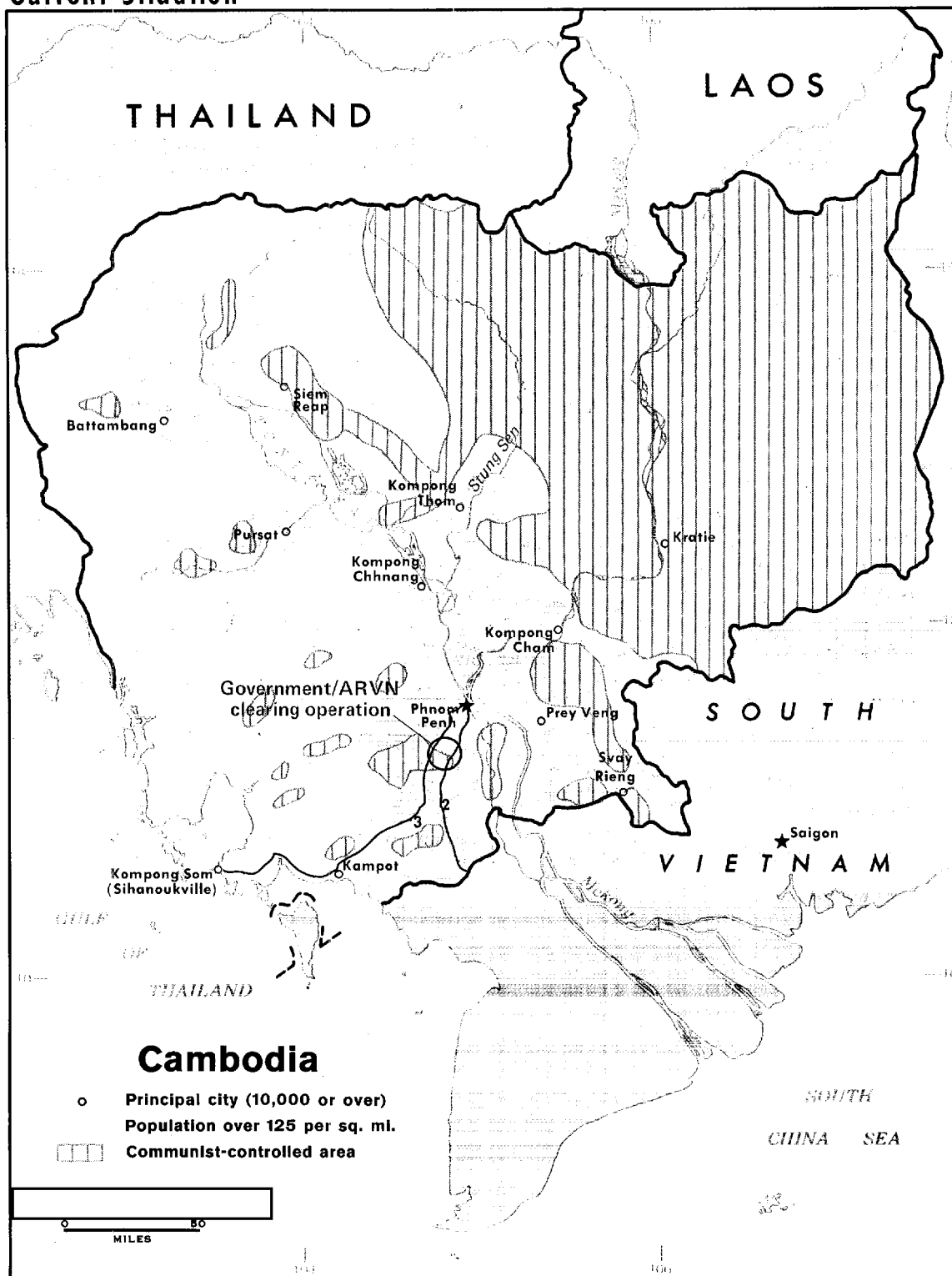
Dayan's apparent switch seems to stem from his reading of US policy and from his evaluation of the domestic political situation. The explicit references in his speech to Israel's dependence on US support suggest that this factor entered into the decision to change his position. It may also be related to the quiet maneuvering for position now under way between the top contenders to succeed Prime Minister Golda Meir, even though few observers expect Mrs. Meir to step down voluntarily before the end of the current Knesset term in the fall of 1973. Having almost certainly boosted his strong public image and popularity by his earlier hard line on the Jarring talks, Dayan may now think that he can afford some compromise on this issue. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA: The government is conducting and planning new military initiatives.

In one of the largest joint offensives to date, five Cambodian battalions and 3,100 South Vietnamese Army troops began a clearing operation yesterday between Routes 2 and 3, some 20 miles southwest of Phnom Penh. No significant contacts with the enemy were reported. The Cambodians undertook a similar operation on their own in this same area last month, but its results were disappointing and government casualties were relatively high.

According to the US defense attaché, the government also plans to launch another riverine operation from Kompong Chhnang city to Kompong Thom city on 12 November. It is scheduled to last 15 days, and will include 1,500 army and navy personnel. While en route to Kompong Thom, the task force will try to re-establish government control in the area between the east bank of the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. In September, three government river convoys successfully delivered supplies and reinforcements to Kompong Thom.

[REDACTED] two explosions on 7 November in a capital city movie theater, which killed 23 civilians and wounded over 40 others, were the handiwork of Communist terrorists. This was the first serious terrorist incident in Phnom Penh. [REDACTED]

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